

PENNSYLVANIA EXTENDS BALLOT RETURN DEADLINE

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October 29, 2004

The U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania has ordered that absentee ballots for all absent Uniformed Services members and overseas citizens who cast their ballot by 8:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, November 2, 2004 be counted for Federal offices so long as they are received by the voter's county board of election not later than 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 2004.

For those Uniformed Services members and overseas citizens who have not received their Pennsylvania state absentee ballot, you may still vote and submit a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) if you have applied for a regular ballot early enough so that the request is received by the appropriate local election official at least 30 days before the election. FWABs may be obtained from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, a Unit Voting Assistance Officer, an overseas citizen organization such as the Democrats Abroad or Republicans International Abroad, or use the official on-line version of the FWAB that is available at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefwab.html>.

The State of Pennsylvania is also seeking a state court ruling to allow votes for state offices to be counted under the same deadlines.

Further information on elections and voting in Pennsylvania is available at the Pennsylvania Department of State website, www.dos.state.pa.us.

The FVAP can be contacted through the DoD Voting Information Center (VIC). Citizens may reach the VIC toll-free from 64 countries using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov. The VIC provides recorded messages from candidates, as well as other information concerning elections, 24 hours a day.

Questions regarding the above may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington DC 20301-1155. Additionally, the FVAP can be reached via e-mail at vote@fvap.ncr.gov and on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fvap.gov/>.